

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An active matrix liquid crystal display, comprising:

a pair of substrates with a liquid crystal layer between said substrates;

5 a pixel electrode and a common electrode having a common longitudinal axis and that are arranged and adapted to generate an electric field parallel to said substrates in said liquid crystal layer, said liquid crystal layer having a non-zero initial alignment angle relative to the common  
10 longitudinal axis; and

a thin film transistor having a source electrode and a drain electrode adjacent to a first part of said liquid crystal layer, said source and drain electrodes being arranged and adapted so that an electric field generated between said  
15 source and drain electrodes is one of substantially parallel to and perpendicular to the non-zero initial alignment angle, whereby an alignment of the first part of said liquid crystal layer does not change when an electric field is generated between said source and drain electrodes.

20 2. The display of claim 1, wherein said source and drain electrodes are arranged and adapted so that an electric field generated between said source and drain electrodes is substantially parallel to the non-zero initial alignment angle, and wherein said source and drain electrodes have

facing edges that are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the non-zero-initial alignment angle.

3. The display of claim 2, wherein said source and drain electrodes each have opposing sides that are parallel to each  
5 other and parallel to the non-zero-initial alignment angle.

4. The display of claim 2, further comprising an island of amorphous silicon adjacent to said source and drain electrodes, wherein said island has opposing sides that are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the non-zero-  
10 initial alignment angle.

5. The display of claim 1, wherein said source and drain electrodes are arranged and adapted so that an electric field generated between said source and drain electrodes is substantially perpendicular to the non-zero initial alignment  
15 angle, and wherein said source and drain electrodes have facing edges that are parallel to each other and parallel to the non-zero-initial alignment angle.

6. The display of claim 1, wherein said source and drain electrodes are arranged and adapted so that an electric field generated between said source and drain electrodes is substantially parallel to the non-zero initial alignment angle, and further comprising an island of amorphous silicon  
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adjacent to said source and drain electrodes, wherein said island has opposing sides that are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the non-zero-initial alignment angle.

7. The display of claim 1, wherein said display comprises an  
5 array of parallel data lines, and wherein the common  
longitudinal axis of said pixel and common electrodes is  
parallel to the data lines.

8. The display of claim 1, wherein said display comprises an  
array of parallel data lines, and wherein the common  
10 longitudinal axis of said pixel and common electrodes is  
transverse to the data lines.

9. An active matrix liquid crystal display, comprising:  
a pair of substrates with a liquid crystal layer  
between said substrates;  
15 a pixel electrode and a common electrode having a  
common longitudinal axis and that are arranged and adapted to  
generate an electric field parallel to said substrates in said  
liquid crystal layer, said liquid crystal layer having a first  
initial alignment angle relative to the common longitudinal  
20 axis; and

a thin film transistor having a source electrode and  
a drain electrode adjacent to a first part of said liquid

crystal layer, said first part of said liquid crystal layer having a second initial alignment angle different from said first alignment angle, said source and drain electrodes being arranged and adapted so that an electric field generated 5 between said source and drain electrodes is substantially parallel to the second alignment angle, whereby an alignment of said liquid crystal layer adjacent to said thin film transistor does not change when an electric field is generated between said source and drain electrodes.

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10. The display of claim 9, wherein said source and drain electrodes have facing edges that are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the common longitudinal axis.

11. An active matrix liquid crystal display, comprising:

15 a pair of substrates with a liquid crystal layer between said substrates;

a pixel electrode and a common electrode that each have a V-shape with two legs and that are arranged and adapted to generate an electric field parallel to said substrates in 20 said liquid crystal layer, said liquid crystal layer having a non-zero initial alignment angle relative to each of the legs of the V-shaped electrodes; and

a thin film transistor having a source electrode and

a drain electrode adjacent to a first part of said liquid crystal layer, said source and drain electrodes being arranged and adapted so that an electric field generated between said source and drain electrodes is one of substantially parallel 5 to and perpendicular to the non-zero initial alignment angle, whereby an alignment of the first part of said liquid crystal layer does not change when an electric field is generated between said source and drain electrodes.